

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks

Executive Secretary

Date _____

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THE WHITE HOUSE

March 6, 1984

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WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

Executive Registry

84- 1113

SUBJECT: Legislative Action on Central American
Issues (S)

Our Central American policy appears headed for increasing difficulty in the Congress. Last week's House Subcommittee mark-up of our Jackson Plan legislation portends serious problems with other, even more controversial, matters. (S)

As seen here, there are three important legislative issues which are critical to our strategy:

- Emergency Security Assistance for El Salvador must be depicted as a means of preserving the option for Congress to act later on the Jackson Plan. A collapse in El Salvador would preclude any effect the Jackson Plan would have when enacted. The President concurs with your proposal to include this funding as an amendment to the Emergency Assistance for Africa Bill once it moves to the Senate. If favorable action is not taken on this by March 23, we should proceed to provide emergency assistance through other discretionary authorities. (S)

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- The Jackson Plan, within which there are two substantive components of immediate concern: certification and military aid levels for El Salvador. While the compromise language on conditionality, which has been negotiated with Congressman Fascell's staff, may be acceptable as a final bottom line, it gives us no room for maneuver/leverage with the Appropriations Committees. We should, therefore, seek to better our position as much as possible on this issue before the bill is voted out of committee. We must preserve the President's discretionary authority and continue to seek the resource levels we have proposed. It should be made explicit that the President will hold the Congress publicly accountable for an adequate response to his bi-partisan initiative. (S)

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The President and White House staff are prepared to lend every possible assistance to your efforts and those of Ken Dam in marshaling support for our programs. We believe it is important to demonstrate Administration solidarity and the President's personal concern for success on these issues. To this end, the President has directed that we should proceed as follows: (S)

- On Tuesday, March 6, the President met in the Oval Office at 0945 with Senator Kasten to discuss the Central America package. We should now proceed to meet at the White House with the eight leaders of the HFAC, HAC, SFRC and SAC. If necessary, a separate meeting should be arranged with Dante Fascell and Bill Broomfield.
- The full time services of an advocate for our cause to supplement the work of Ken Dam is essential. Nick Brady has agreed to serve in this capacity through the crucial votes on these issues.
- The President is considering making a major foreign policy address within a month's time--a significant portion of which will be devoted to our Central American strategy and the role of the Congress in its success.
- We need to have a series of coordinated op-ed pieces, speeches, and media appearances from high-level Administration officials which will focus public attention on our cause and the legislation. We should seek the same kinds of support from the members of the National Bipartisan Commission.
- Faith Whittlesey has been asked to revitalize her earlier effort with other concerned groups and to coordinate her endeavors with Otto Reich in your public diplomacy office.
- We should invite our Central American Ambassadors (starting with Tom Pickering) in for a publicized meeting with the President over the course of the next several weeks. We would then have them brief the White House press corps and consult with Congressional members and committees.
- To further portray White House concern in these matters and avail ourselves of the sophisticated briefing and media capabilities we have incorporated in Room 208, OEOB, we will: (S)

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- Commencing on Wednesday, March 14, invite key Congressional leaders to the first regular "bi-weekly Central America update" in Room 208 of the OEOB. At each session, we would schedule a high-level speaker (yourself, Secretary Weinberger, Bill Casey, General Vessey, General Gorman, Ambassador Shlaudeman, Tony Motley, etc.) to talk for 15 to 20 minutes on key issues and describe our policy/operational responses. The sessions should take less than one hour every two weeks. An occasional Presidential "drop by" will be planned.
- On Friday, following each update briefing, we will produce a written classified update which could be used by supportive Members as a "guide" in contending with less "friendly" colleagues.
- On the following Monday, we shall distribute an unclassified version of the "update" to all Members as a courtesy and to assist in educating on the issues. Talking points can be included for use in constituent fora.
- Similar, lower-level briefings will be scheduled for key Congressional staff members in the 208 OEOB facility.

By conducting such an intensive program between now and June/July, when we expect action on the three legislative issues, we will signal high White House involvement. Your assistance in developing presentations, list of participants, and in providing material for the briefings would be much appreciated. (U)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:


Robert C. McFarlane

cc: Caspar W. Weinberger
David A. Stockman
William J. Casey
Jeane J. Kirkpatrick
James A. Baker, III
M. B. Oglesby
General John W. Vessey, Jr.

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